WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Promotion of High-Tech High value exports

3064. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recognized the need to promote high-tech high value exports from India to increase its market share of the world trade ; and

(b) if so, whether Government hve any definite plans to achieve this ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have recognized the need to promote high-tech high value exports from India. High tech high value export sectors such as software have registered consistent high growth during recent times. Government have initiated a number of steps to assist the industry through various promotional policy measures such as EPCG scheme, tax benefits to EOU/EPC/STP/EHTP units, Special Economic Zones, besides giving boost to infrastructural development for exports, schemes for technological upgradation and quality improvement and providing financial and credit facilities.

Registration of Tobacco Farmers with Tobacco Board

3065. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tobacco farmers registered with the Tobacco Board all over the country;

(b) the State-wise break-up for such registration ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a large amount of tobacco coming in from unregistered farmers;

(d) whether any estimate has been made of this quantity; and

(e) the details of tobacco estimated to be grown in different States without registration ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total number of tobacco farmers currently registered with the Tobacco Board in the country is 63051.

(b) The State-wise break-up for such registration is as follows :

States	Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Karnataka	Total
No. of farmers	44436	60	128	18427	63051

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The current details of tobacco estimated to be grown in different States without registration are as follows :—

(In milion kg.)

States	Andhra Pradesh	Maharashtra	Orissa	Karnataka	Total
Estimated tobacco production without registration 1999-2000	14.148	0.028	0.120	11.407	25.703

Fall in export of marine products

3066. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep fall in the quantity of marine products exports from India :

(b) what are the major impediments to exports of marine products from Andhra Pradesh ;

(c) whether the MPEDA is not giving adequate support to shrimp and prawn originating from Andhra Pradesh ;

(d) what steps are proposed to ensure that shrimp and prawn from Andhra Pradesh are adequately projected in foreign countries ; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. During the year 1999-2000, India exported 323783.62 metric tons of marine products as compared to 302933.88 metric tons of marine products exported during the year 1998-99 which accounts for a growth of 6.88%.